

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A magnetic transfer apparatus in which a master information carrier carrying thereon information to be transferred to a slave medium is held in close contact with the slave medium by a holder disposed on the holder support portion of a magnetic transfer apparatus and comprising a pair of halves movable toward and away from each other, and a transfer magnetic field is applied to the master information carrier and the slave medium held in close contact with each other by the holder, the magnetic transfer apparatus comprising

a locator mechanism having a first surface,

wherein the first surface contacts a second surface of the holder support portion, and

wherein the locator mechanism locates the holder at least in a direction perpendicular to the central axis of the holder; and

wherein the locator mechanism includes a first element provided in a part of the holder and a second element provided in a part of the holder support portion, wherein the second element removably receives the first element.

2. (Currently Amended): A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in Claim 1 in which the locator mechanism is provided with at least one of a sliding guide and a rolling guide employed at a contact portion between the holder and the holder support portion;

wherein the at least one of a sliding guide and a rolling guide is a guide for mounting the first element to the second element.

3. (original): A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in Claim 1 further comprising a pressing mechanism which presses the holder against the holder support portion.

4. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in claim 3, in which the pressing mechanism presses the holder ~~in which a master information carrier carrying thereon information to be transferred to a slave medium is held in close contact with the slave medium by a holder disposed on the holder support portion of a magnetic transfer apparatus and comprising a pair of halves movable toward and away from each other, and a transfer magnetic field is applied to the master information carrier and the slave medium held in close contact with each other by the holder, the magnetic transfer apparatus comprising~~

~~a locator mechanism which is provided between the holder support portion and the holder and locates the holder at least in a direction perpendicular to the central axis of the holder, and~~

~~a pressing mechanism which presses the holder against the holder support portion in a direction at an angle to the axis of rotation of the holder.~~

5. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer apparatus in which a master information carrier carrying thereon information to be transferred to a slave medium is held in close contact with the slave medium by a holder disposed on the holder support portion of a magnetic transfer apparatus and comprising a pair of halves movable toward and away from each other, and a

transfer magnetic field is applied to the master information carrier and the slave medium held in close contact with each other by the holder, the magnetic transfer apparatus comprising
a locator mechanism having a first surface,
wherein the first surface contacts a second surface of the holder support portion,
wherein the locator mechanism locates the holder at least in a direction perpendicular to the central axis of the holder,

~~A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in Claim 1,~~ wherein the locator mechanism comprises a block portion including the first surface, and
wherein the holder support portion includes a recess for receiving the block portion.

6. (currently amended): A magnetic transfer apparatus in which a master information carrier carrying thereon information to be transferred to a slave medium is held in close contact with the slave medium by a holder disposed on the holder support portion of a magnetic transfer apparatus and comprising a pair of halves movable toward and away from each other, and a transfer magnetic field is applied to the master information carrier and the slave medium held in close contact with each other by the holder, the magnetic transfer apparatus comprising
a locator mechanism having a first surface,
wherein the first surface contacts a second surface of the holder support portion,
wherein the locator mechanism locates the holder at least in a direction perpendicular to the central axis of the holder, ~~A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in Claim 1,~~
wherein the first surface includes an engaging portion, and

wherein the second surface includes a receiving portion configured to receive the engaging portion.

7. (Previously Presented): A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in Claim 1 further comprising pressing means for pressing the holder against the holder support portion.

8. (new) A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the holder includes a support surface, which is opposed to a surface of one of the master information carrier and the slave medium, and a support shaft projecting, in parallel with the central axis of the holder, from the center of the back side of the support surface; wherein the first element is a locating block mounted onto the support shaft; wherein the second element is a receiving portion for receiving the locating block; wherein at least a part of the locating block is fitted into the receiving portion to locate the holder in the direction perpendicular to the central axis of the holder.

9. (new) A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the locating block includes a first block surface perpendicular to the support surface and a second block surface perpendicular to the support surface and the first block surface, and wherein the receiving portion includes a first abutment surface, on which the first block surface abuts, and a second abutment surface, on which the second block surface abuts.

10. (new) A magnetic transfer apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the locating block has a protrusion projecting therefrom in a direction along the support surface, and wherein the receiving portion has a depression into which the protrusion is fitted.